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## FO 2189743

### Supervisor's Report on Use of Force

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#### Exhibits

- A. Tag #310 - Incident Detail Report dated 02/17/07
- B. L.A.S.D. Incident Report (*Domestic Violence, Resisting Arrest*) # 507-04275-1126-050
- C. Supplemental Report written by Sergeant Steve Bullard
- D. Supplemental Report written by Deputy Robert Claus
- E. Supplemental Report written by Reserve Deputy Charles Klein
- F. Supplemental Report written by Deputy Scott Graham
- G. Supplemental Report written by Deputy Richard O'Neal
- H. Subject Gotch's Criminal History
- I. Signed release form and Medical Record for S/Gotch
- J. Copies of four photographs of Subject Gotch's injuries
- K. Copies of three photographs of location
- L. One digital video disc and two 8 mm video discs containing video interviews of five witnesses, pre-interview with S/Gotch, and an attempted interview with [REDACTED]
- M. One compact disc containing Dispatch [REDACTED], L-Tac and 9-1-1 Radio Traffic
- N. Copy of Foot Pursuit Evaluation Form

#### Miscellaneous Documents

- ▶ Lancaster Station's Daily In-Service dated 02/17/07 - PM
- ▶ Copies of two photographs of Deputy O'Neal's injuries
- Administrative Rights Forms

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# Supervisor's Report on Use of Force INVOLVED EMPLOYEE INFORMATION

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## Involved Employee

<b>E1</b>	Employee #	Last Name O'Neal	First Name Richard	Middle Name Scott
Sex: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female		Race: W	Unit of Assignment: Lancaster	
Work Assignment (Unit #, Module, etc.): 110G12				
Shift: <input type="checkbox"/> EM <input type="checkbox"/> Day <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PM		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regular Shift <input type="checkbox"/> OT Shift <input type="checkbox"/> Off Duty		Age: 31
		Height: 510		Weight: 215
Medical Exam/Treatment <input type="checkbox"/>		If Admitted, Name of Hospital:		Coroner Case #
				Directed Force <input type="checkbox"/> Significant Force <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

<b>E</b>	Employee #	Last Name	First Name	Middle Name
Sex: <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female		Race:	Unit of Assignment:	
Work Assignment (Unit #, Module, etc.):				
Shift: <input type="checkbox"/> EM <input type="checkbox"/> Day <input type="checkbox"/> PM		<input type="checkbox"/> Regular Shift <input type="checkbox"/> OT Shift <input type="checkbox"/> Off Duty		Age:
		Height:		Weight:
Medical Exam/Treatment <input type="checkbox"/>		If Admitted, Name of Hospital:		Coroner Case#
				Directed Force <input type="checkbox"/> Significant Force <input type="checkbox"/>

<b>E</b>	Employee #	Last Name	First Name	Middle Name
Sex: <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female		Race:	Unit of Assignment:	
Work Assignment (Unit #, Module, etc.):				
Shift: <input type="checkbox"/> EM <input type="checkbox"/> Day <input type="checkbox"/> PM		<input type="checkbox"/> Regular Shift <input type="checkbox"/> OT Shift <input type="checkbox"/> Off Duty		Age:
		Height:		Weight:
Medical Exam/Treatment <input type="checkbox"/>		If Admitted, Name of Hospital:		Coroner Case#
				Directed Force <input type="checkbox"/> Significant Force <input type="checkbox"/>

<b>E</b>	Employee #	Last Name	First Name	Middle Name
Sex: <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female		Race:	Unit of Assignment:	
Work Assignment (Unit #, Module, etc.):				
Shift: <input type="checkbox"/> EM <input type="checkbox"/> Day <input type="checkbox"/> PM		<input type="checkbox"/> Regular Shift <input type="checkbox"/> OT Shift <input type="checkbox"/> Off Duty		Age:
		Height:		Weight:
Medical Exam/Treatment <input type="checkbox"/>		If Admitted, Name of Hospital:		Coroner Case#
				Directed Force <input type="checkbox"/> Significant Force <input type="checkbox"/>

<b>E</b>	Employee #	Last Name	First Name	Middle Name
Sex: <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female		Race:	Unit of Assignment:	
Work Assignment (Unit #, Module, etc.):				
Shift: <input type="checkbox"/> EM <input type="checkbox"/> Day <input type="checkbox"/> PM		<input type="checkbox"/> Regular Shift <input type="checkbox"/> OT Shift <input type="checkbox"/> Off Duty		Age:
		Height:		Weight:
Medical Exam/Treatment <input type="checkbox"/>		If Admitted, Name of Hospital:		Coroner Case#
				Directed Force <input type="checkbox"/> Significant Force <input type="checkbox"/>

# Supervisor's Report on Use of Force

## SUSPECT INFORMATION

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Suspect Information										
S1	Last Name		Gotch		First Name		Matthew		Middle Name	Serge
	AKA Last Name				First Name				Middle Name	
	Sex:		Race:		Street Address:		City:		State & Zip Code:	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female		W							
	Work Phone:		Home Phone:		Age:		Height:		D.O.B.	
					23		509		09-06-83	
									Weight: 155	
									Armed? <input type="checkbox"/>	
Booking #: 9410735    Primary Charge: 273.5PC    Secondary Charge: 148PC    Criminal History: <input type="checkbox"/>										
Hospital Admission? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rec'd Treatment At: Antelope Valley Hospital    Coroner Case#:    Mental History <input type="checkbox"/>										
Under Influence: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO    Substance: Alcohol    Photos of Suspect's Injuries <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO										
Suspect Interview										
Date:			Time:		Audiotape:		Videotape:			
02/18/07			2000		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>			
Suspect Information										
S	Last Name				First Name				Middle Name	
	AKA Last Name				First Name				Middle Name	
	Sex:		Race:		Street Address:		City:		State & Zip Code:	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female									
	Work Phone:		Home Phone:		Age:		Height:		D.O.B.	
									Weight:	
									Armed? <input type="checkbox"/>	
Booking #:    Primary Charge:    Secondary Charge:    Criminal History <input type="checkbox"/>										
Hospital Admission? <input type="checkbox"/> Rec'd Treatment At:    Coroner Case#:    Mental History <input type="checkbox"/>										
Under Influence: <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO    Substance:    Photos of Suspect's Injuries <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO										
Suspect Interview										
Date:			Time:		Audiotape:		Videotape:			
					<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>			
Suspect Information										
S	Last Name				First Name				Middle Name	
	AKA Last Name				First Name				Middle Name	
	Sex:		Race:		Street Address:		City:		State & Zip Code:	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female									
	Work Phone:		Home Phone:		Age:		Height:		D.O.B.	
									Weight:	
									Armed? <input type="checkbox"/>	
Booking #:    Primary Charge:    Secondary Charge:    Criminal History <input type="checkbox"/>										
Hospital Admission? <input type="checkbox"/> Rec'd Treatment At:    Coroner Case#:    Mental History <input type="checkbox"/>										
Under Influence: <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO    Substance:    Photos of Suspect's Injuries <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO										
Suspect Interview										
Date:			Time:		Audiotape:		Videotape:			
					<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>			



## Investigative Summary

Type of Incident: Use of Force at end of a Foot Pursuit  
Comminuted Jaw Fracture

IAB File Number: FO 2189743

URN Number: 507-04275-1126-050

On February 18, 2007, at approximately 2000 hours, Sergeants Rossanna Taylor and Marshall Baird of the Internal Affairs Bureau responded to Antelope Valley Hospital regarding a use of force incident which caused a fractured jaw to the suspect on February 17, 2007.

Deputy Richard O'Neal was involved in a foot pursuit of a fleeing male suspect on suspicion of felony domestic violence. As Deputy O'Neal caught up to the suspect from behind, O'Neal pushed the suspect forward which caused the suspect to fall on his face, lose his two upper front teeth, and sustain a fractured jaw. As O'Neal confronted the suspect in order to effect an arrest, a struggle ensued which led O'Neal to punch the suspect in the head/face/torso area a few times for compliance.

The summary of this incident is based on information obtained from reports and other documents regarding Lancaster Station OSS File #507-04275-1126-050, along with involved deputy personnel, suspect, and witness interviews. (See EXHIBITS A - N)

### Involved Personnel

O'NEAL, Richard, Deputy # [REDACTED]

Detective Division - Operations Safe Streets - Lancaster Station

Date of Employment: 03-10-97

Date Assigned to Patrol: [REDACTED]

Completed Patrol Training: [REDACTED]

Prior Shooting Incident(s): [REDACTED]

Prior Founded Force Incidents: [REDACTED]

### Suspect

GOTCH, Matthew, MW/23, Booking # 9410735

Suspect Gotch has a [REDACTED] (EXHIBIT H) consisting of [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

### Sworn Witnesses

Deputy Scott Graham, # [REDACTED]

Detective Division - Operations Safe Streets - Lancaster Station

Sergeant Steve Bullard, # [REDACTED]  
Field Operations Region I - Lancaster Station

### Civilian Witnesses

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

### Injuries

**Suspect Gotch** was transported to the emergency room of Antelope Valley Hospital, which is located at 1600 West Avenue J, Lancaster, CA., 93534 (Telephone # [661] 949-5000), where he was examined by Doctor Loren Rauch. Gotch lost his two upper front teeth and sustained a comminuted fracture to his jaw (**EXHIBITS I & J**). Doctor Rauch was inadvertently not interviewed at the time of Suspect Gotch's hospital admission.

**Deputy O'Neal** refused medical treatment although he sustained tissue damage to his right middle knuckle and abrasions to his right arm. (**See Miscellaneous Document for photographs of his injuries**).

### Physical Evidence

None

### Investigator Observations

None

### Weapons Used by Deputy Personnel

Deputy O'Neal used verbal commands and personal weapons (hands/arms/push) to restrain and apprehend the suspect.

### Weapons Used by Deputy Suspect

Suspect Gotch was under the influence of an alcoholic beverage and fled to avoid arrest. He was then uncooperative and resistive while being handcuffed.

### Property Damage

None

### Criminal Investigation/Charges Filed

On February 17, 2007, Suspect Gotch was arrested for 273.5 PC, Domestic Violence, and 148 PC, Resisting Arrest. Lancaster Station Detective Miguel Torres, # [REDACTED], was the assigned investigator and said on April 8, 2007, District Attorney Mykka Young dismissed the 273.5 PC charge due to insufficient evidence, but filed an arrest warrant for 148 PC.

## Lighting and Weather Conditions

The incident occurred outdoors during daylight hours. The weather was clear and dry.

*The narratives which follow are intended only as summaries of the interviews.*

## Involved Employee Statements

**Deputy Richard O'Neal**, 03-07-06, 1325 hrs, at Lancaster Station

Deputy O'Neal articulated substantially the same as in his initial supplemental report (**EXHIBIT G**), which he said is a true and an accurate account of the incident. O'Neal added he and his partner, Deputy Graham, heard radio traffic regarding a domestic violence male suspect running from the handling unit. He was the driver and responded to where a deputy was holding the suspect at gun point. Upon their arrival, the suspect rose out of the bushes (**EXHIBIT K, page 1**) he was hiding behind and jumped the wall directly behind him.

O'Neal said he and his partner both jumped a shorter wall (**EXHIBIT K, page 2**) adjacent to the wall the suspect jumped over because it was shorter, and both ran after the suspect for about 20 yards, before the suspect jumped over another wall. He said he then jumped the same wall (**EXHIBIT K, page 3**) he initially jumped over, after the suspect and saw Witness Sergeant Bullard try to block the suspect's path with his patrol car. The suspect ran around the car. O'Neal said he saw Bullard exit his vehicle and come toward him and the suspect. O'Neal said he got close enough to the suspect from behind and pushed him forward. He said because his own momentum kept him moving forward and caused him to run into the building ahead of him, he did not see how the suspect fell to the ground. He said he went back to the suspect and tried to handcuff him, but he kept his hands under his stomach. O'Neal said he kneeled on top of the suspect and ordered him to show his hands, but he did not comply. He said he punched the suspect a couple of times in the back of the head/neck area in hopes the suspect would show his hands. He said the suspect still did not comply so he punched him in the kidney area a couple of times. He said the suspect then complied and he and Bullard were able to handcuff the suspect without further incident.

O'Neal said his partner, Deputy Graham, initially struggled to get over the wall the second time, but eventually did.

O'Neal said he saw the suspect drop to his feet both times the suspect jumped both walls, and continue running. He said when he first observed the suspect, he was not bleeding from his mouth. He said he saw the suspect bleeding from the mouth area once he apprehended him.

He said he did not broadcast a foot pursuit because he thought his partner, Deputy Graham, who was right behind him, would have done it. He said there was never any partner splitting between he and his partner, Graham. He said he did not hear a foot pursuit broadcasted over the radio.

**IAB Note: There is no foot pursuit broadcast in any of the radio traffic recordings (EXHIBIT M).**

O'Neal said he got a little scratch on his middle right knuckle, which he got when he went to punch the suspect, but hit the concrete instead.



### Civilian Witness Statements

**Witness** [REDACTED] said she was driving her mother, **Witness** [REDACTED], on February 17, 2007, when her mother yelled, "Did you see that?" [REDACTED] said she looked over and saw a male white running away from a bald deputy, saw both of them jump over a wall. Then the deputy pushed him from behind and the male hit the ground like 'superman' (She mimicked the suspect hitting the ground with both arms out in front of him). She said since she was driving, she looked away and then heard her mother say, "Oh my God, they're beating him," but she did not see that.

**Witness** [REDACTED] said she was the front seat passenger of a vehicle driven by her daughter, **Witness** [REDACTED], on February 17, 2007. [REDACTED] said she happened to look to her right out of the passenger window and saw a white male with blue jeans and a white top on jump over a wall, two deputies run after him and one of them push him forward to the ground. She said the white male fell face down but she could not see his hands. She said one of the deputies punched the male white about the head/face area three times. She said since she was about 50 - 60 yards away and inside her vehicle, she could not hear anything.

### Sworn Witness Statements

**Witness Sergeant Steve Bullard**, 05/09/07, 1400 hours, Internal Affairs Bureau

Sergeant Bullard said he was the field sergeant on February 17, 2007, and present at the terminus of a foot pursuit, where Deputy O'Neal apprehended Suspect Gotch.

Bullard said he was inside the containment of a domestic violence-suspect fleeing call, when he saw the suspect jump over a wall and run past his vehicle with Deputy O'Neal right behind him. He said he was outside the car dealership's rear perimeter wall and tried to block the suspect's path with his vehicle, but the suspect ran around it. He said by the time he got out of his patrol vehicle, O'Neal had already caught up to the suspect and had pushed him forward. He said he ran over to assist O'Neal at the end of O'Neal's foot pursuit.

He said O'Neal's momentum kept him running forward, but was able to stop himself and contact the suspect. He said O'Neal gave the suspect verbal commands to show his hands, but the suspect did not comply. He said he saw O'Neal punch the suspect a couple of times about the head/neck area, but the suspect still was not complying. He said he saw O'Neal punch the suspect a few times in the torso area, and the suspect finally complied. He said he assisted O'Neal in handcuffing the suspect without further incident.

**Witness Deputy Scott Graham**, 04/05/07, 1300 hours, Internal Affairs Bureau

Deputy Graham articulated substantially the same as in his initial supplemental report (EXHIBIT F), which he said is a true and an accurate account of the incident. Graham added he was Deputy O'Neal's partner on February 17, 2007, and was the passenger of their black and white vehicle, when they both heard a containment being set up by Lancaster patrol personnel of a domestic violence suspect. He said he and his partner responded to a deputy's call saying he was holding the suspect at gunpoint. Graham said upon their arrival, he saw the suspect appear from behind bushes and jump a tall wall immediately behind him (EXHIBIT K, page 1). He said he and O'Neal went to an adjoining shorter wall (EXHIBIT K, page 2), and could see the suspect run away from them.

Graham said both he and O'Neal jumped over the adjacent wall, but O'Neal followed the suspect while he (Graham) moved across the parking lot paralleling O'Neal and the suspect. He said he and O'Neal did not chase and were not in foot pursuit of the suspect; they were just following the suspect like a jog, but not running, and pacing each other to see what direction the suspect would take. Graham estimated their time following the suspect between the first and second wall jumping to be from approximately 45 seconds to a minute. He said O'Neal took off in a sprint and began a foot pursuit of the suspect after jumping the same wall a second time. He estimated that time between the second jumping of the wall and apprehension of the suspect to be approximately under 10 seconds and 50 feet in distance. He said O'Neal broadcasted the direction of the suspect upon reaching the wall a second time.

**IAB Note: Both deputies jumped one wall, twice; first into the Ford dealership's rear lot and second out of the dealership's rear lot.**

Graham said he was behind his partner the entire time and never lost sight of him. He said the suspect then jumped another wall, and O'Neal followed. Graham said by the time he looked over that wall, he could see Witness Bullard in his vehicle attempting to impede the suspect with his vehicle, but the suspect ran around the car. He said he saw O'Neal continue to run after the suspect and Bullard join in the chase after exiting his car. O'Neal was able to catch up to the suspect first and pushed him forward. He said the suspect fell on his face. He said O'Neal's momentum carried him past the suspect and into a wall. Graham said he heard O'Neal order the suspect several times to show his arms, which were under his stomach, but the suspect did not comply. He said he saw O'Neal punch the suspect a couple of times in the back. He said the suspect gave up his hands and O'Neal and Bullard were then able to handcuff him. Graham said O'Neal was the only one who used force on the suspect, while Bullard assisted in the handcuffing.

Graham said he did not broadcast a foot pursuit, nor did he hear one over the radio. He said he did not broadcast it because he was not in pursuit, there was a lot of radio traffic at the time, they were both inside a containment, and it lasted under 10 seconds. He felt it may have gotten more confusing if a foot pursuit had been broadcasted because everything was in such close proximity.

**IAB Note: A review of the radio traffic (EXHIBIT M) indicated deputy personnel were not stepping on each other's communications; the broadcast seemed controlled.**

Graham said the suspect's face and clothing appeared dirty and scruffy when he first saw him at the first wall about 40 feet away. He said the next time he saw the suspect was after O'Neal had pushed him and he (the suspect) was bleeding.

### Suspect Statements

**Suspect Matthew Gotch** was first interviewed by field sergeant, Sergeant Russell Wilson, # [REDACTED], at the scene on February 17, 2007. Gotch was under the influence of an alcoholic beverage and was able to answer minimally due to his injuries. Once at the hospital, it was determined Gotch suffered a comminuted jaw fracture and could not speak much. However, he was able to answer a few of Sergeant Wilson's questions as to who did believe caused his injuries. Gotch was certain his injuries occurred after he came in contact with the deputies and maybe after he hit the ground after being chased.

Sergeant Wilson attempted to interview Suspect [REDACTED] while at the hospital, but was so heavily sedated, she did not wake up. He did however, articulate her appearance; black left eye, dried blood on her lips and a strong alcohol/blood odor on her person. [REDACTED] was subsequently released from the hospital prior to my arrival the next morning.

I interviewed Suspect Gotch at the Antelope Valley Hospital on February 18, 2007, at approximately 2000 hours. Gotch was more coherent and stated the following: He and his girlfriend, Suspect [REDACTED], began drinking Tanguerey gin from around noon on February 17, 2007, and were at a bus stop when four black males approached them. He said his girlfriend, who drank more than he did, got belligerent with one of the males and he punched her in the mouth, causing her to bleed. When he tried to help, one of the males punched him in the eye. He and his girlfriend then crossed the street to an auto dealership where employees came outside to assist them and called 9-1-1.

Gotch said when deputies approached he and his girlfriend at the dealership, she ran one way and he ran another because he was drunk and had an [REDACTED]. He said he jumped over two walls and the next thing he remembered was being on the ground in a puddle of blood with half his teeth missing. He said he landed on his feet both times he jumped the two walls, and believes he was tackled or was hit in the face with a billy club. He said although he is not exactly sure how he got his injuries, it would not surprise him if the deputies pushed him down. Gotch said once he was handcuffed, no one else used any other force on him.

#### Miscellaneous Statements

None.

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

**SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT***A Tradition of Service*

DATE: June 28, 2007

FILE NO. FO2189743

OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

FROM:

JOHNNY G. JURADO, COMMANDER  
LEADERSHIP AND TRAINING DIVISIONTO: KARYN MANNIS, CAPTAIN  
INTERNAL AFFAIRS BUREAU

SUBJECT:

**EXECUTIVE FORCE REVIEW COMMITTEE DISPOSITION:  
DEPUTY RICHARD O'NEAL # [REDACTED]  
OPERATION SAFE STREETS BUREAU**

Deputies Richard O'Neal and Scott Graham responded to a Lancaster station containment for a domestic violence suspect. When they arrived they saw Suspect Gotch leave the concealment of a bush and jump over a wall. Deputies O'Neal and Graham jumped over the wall and both ran after the suspect for about 20 yards before the suspect jumped over another wall.

Suspect Gotch continued running toward Sergeant Bullard's (LAN) vehicle. Sergeant Bullard tried to block Suspect Gotch's path with his vehicle, but the suspect was able to run around it. Deputy O'Neal was then able to push Suspect Gotch to the ground. Deputy O'Neal knelt on the suspect's back and ordered him to show his hands, but Suspect Gotch kept his arms under his body. Deputy O'Neal struck Suspect Gotch on the back of the head and neck, and in the kidney area until the suspect complied and allowed himself to be handcuffed by Deputy O'Neal as Sergeant Bullard assisted.

Suspect Gotch lost his two upper front teeth and sustained a comminuted fracture to his jaw. He was also under the influence of alcohol during this incident.

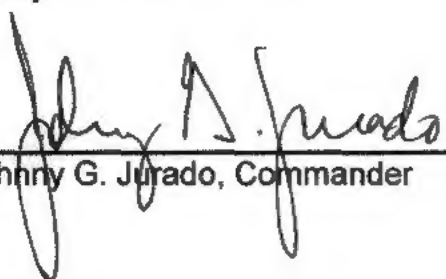
On June 28, 2007, the Executive Force Review Committee convened and conducted a review regarding the facts of this case. The applicable policies that were evaluated by the committee were: MMP §§ 3-01/025.00, Use of Force; 3-01/025.10, Unreasonable Force; and 3-01/050.10, Performance to Standards.

Concerning:

MMP § 3-01/025.00, Use of Force, and MMP § 3-01/025.10, Unreasonable Force, the Committee determined that the force used by Deputy Richard O'Neal # [REDACTED] was reasonable and necessary and in compliance with Department policy.

MMP § 3-01/050.10, Performance to Standards, the Committee determined that the

tactics employed by Deputy Richard O'Neal in this incident were within Department Policy.



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Johnny G. Jurado, Commander

JGJ:MOT:mt